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# BUSINESS STATISTICS

## A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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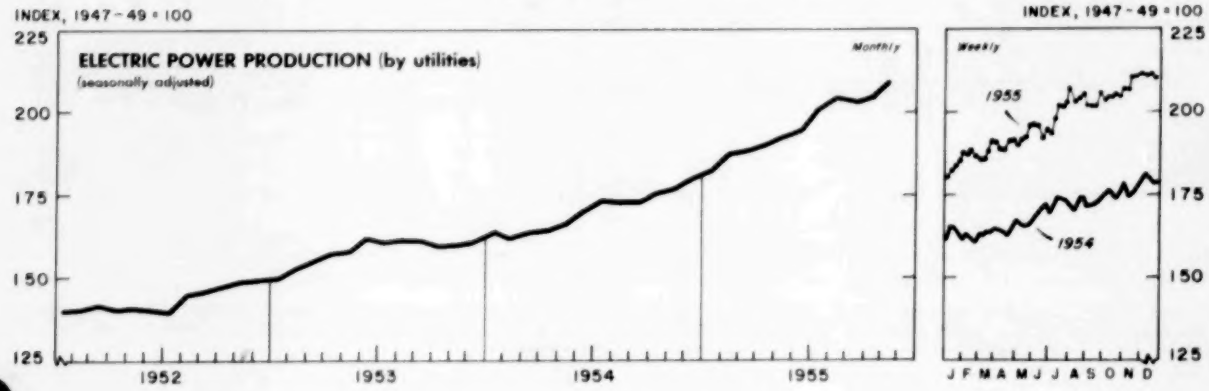
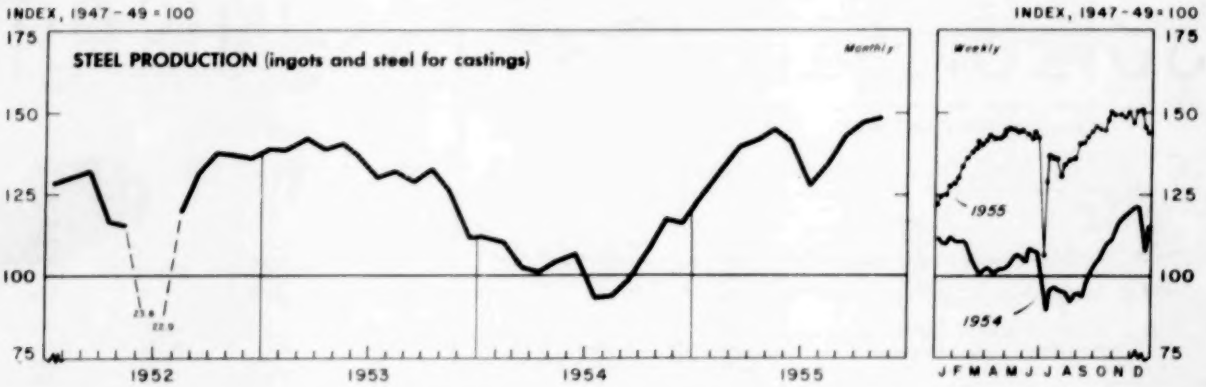
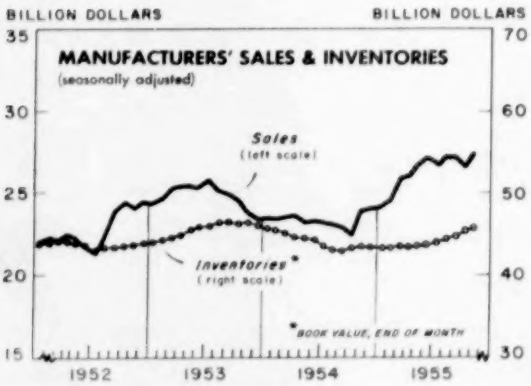
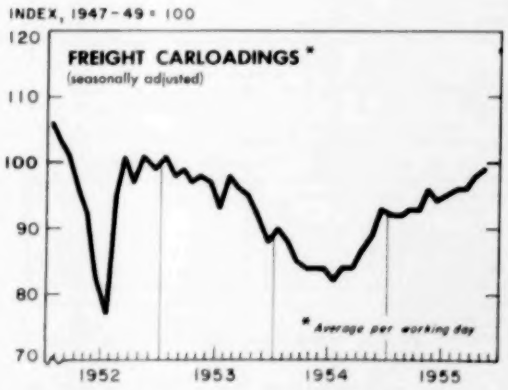
### SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS



# WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

| ITEM | 1954 | 1955 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dec. 25 | Jan. 1 | Dec. 10 | Dec. 17 | Dec. 24 | Dec. 31 |
| Commodity prices, wholesale: | | | | | | |
| All commodities.....1947-49=100.. | *109.5 | ..... | 111.1 | 111.1 | 111.2 | 111.4 |
| Farm products.....do.... | *89.9 | ..... | 83.8 | 83.3 | 84.5 | 85.2 |
| Foods, processed.....do.... | *103.5 | ..... | 98.0 | 98.0 | 97.7 | 97.7 |
| All other.....do.... | *114.9 | ..... | 119.4 | 119.5 | 119.5 | 119.5 |
| 22 commodities 2/.....do.... | 89.9 | 90.2 | 89.6 | 89.2 | 89.9 | 89.9 |
| Department store sales.....do.... | 190 | 80 | 235 | 255 | 230 | ..... |
| Insured unemployment, total 3/.....thous.. | 1,892 | 2,061 | 1,138 | 1,189 | ..... | ..... |
| State programs.....do.... | 1,684 | 1,847 | 1,029 | 1,079 | ..... | ..... |
| Finance: | | | | | | |
| Currency in circulation 4/.....mil. of dol.. | 30,909 | 30,618 | 31,177 | 31,308 | 31,414 | 31,365 |
| Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 4/....do.... | 26,612 | 26,433 | 26,274 | 26,428 | 27,101 | 27,420 |
| Member bank reserve balances 4/.....do.... | 19,512 | 19,250 | 18,869 | 18,950 | 19,446 | 19,487 |
| Excess reserves, estimated 4/.....do.... | 822 | 620 | 479 | 499 | 686 | 704 |
| Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:5/ | | | | | | |
| Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol.. | 58,025 | 58,445 | 57,256 | 58,558 | 58,670 | ..... |
| Time deposits, except Government.....do.... | 21,373 | 21,407 | 21,582 | 21,615 | 21,631 | ..... |
| Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do.... | 86,564 | 86,506 | 85,451 | 85,698 | 86,793 | ..... |
| U. S. Government obligations.....do.... | 37,205 | 36,902 | 29,559 | 29,559 | 30,243 | ..... |
| Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do.... | 22,423 | 22,423 | 26,117 | 26,317 | 26,604 | ..... |
| Real-estate loans (gross).....do.... | 7,156 | 7,176 | 8,156 | 8,156 | 8,148 | ..... |
| Failures, industrial and commercial.....number.. | 213 | 152 | 219 | 247 | 181 | ..... |
| Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 4/.....percent.. | 3.14 | 3.14 | 3.32 | 3.34 | 3.35 | ..... |
| Stock prices, 480 stocks (Standard and Poor's).1935-39=100.. | 267.6 | 270.6 | 327.7 | 324.9 | 327.9 | 327.5 |
| Industrials, 420 stocks.....do.... | 300.7 | 304.2 | 377.4 | 374.1 | 378.4 | 377.4 |
| Production: | | | | | | |
| Bituminous coal 4/.....thous. of short tons.. | 1,717 | 1,486 | 1,803 | 1,750 | 1,713 | ..... |
| Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr.. | 9,431 | 9,425 | 11,426 | 11,602 | 11,614 | ..... |
| Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number.. | 143,537 | 142,384 | 206,279 | 196,422 | 169,984 | 118,769 |
| Petroleum (crude) and condensate 4/.....thous. of bbl.. | 6,401 | 6,343 | 6,923 | 6,946 | 6,992 | ..... |
| Steel 6/.....thous. of short tons.. | 1,726 | 1,850 | 2,416 | 2,421 | 2,338 | 2,309 |
| Percent of capacity 6/..... | #72.4 | #77.6 | 100.1 | 100.3 | 96.9 | 95.7 |
| Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars.. | 561 | 529 | 727 | 715 | 672 | ..... |
| Miscellaneous.....do.... | 289 | 273 | 373 | 369 | 342 | ..... |

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Includes UCFE program beginning January 8, 1955. 4/ Daily average. 5/ Wednesday data. 6/ Week ended January 7: Production, 2,373 thous. short tons; operating rate, #96.4 percent. * Monthly index for December 1954. # Not comparable with 1955 rates which are based on different capacity.

# MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

| ITEM | 1954 | | 1955 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | October | November | August | September | October | November |
| GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS | | | | | | |
| Manufacturers' sales: | | | | | | |
| Value (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol.. | 23,638 | 23,691 | 27,411 | 27,596 | r27,847 | 27,269 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do.... | 10,689 | 11,088 | 13,494 | 13,502 | r13,694 | 13,717 |
| Primary metal.....do.... | 1,646 | 1,683 | 2,223 | 2,353 | r2,369 | 2,414 |
| Fabricated metal.....do.... | 1,216 | 1,103 | 1,585 | 1,536 | r1,548 | 1,420 |
| Machinery (including electrical).....do.... | 3,065 | 2,993 | 3,332 | 3,535 | r3,577 | 3,441 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)..do.... | 2,053 | 2,728 | 3,142 | 2,956 | r3,125 | 3,566 |
| Lumber and furniture.....do.... | 1,000 | 987 | 1,344 | 1,285 | r1,188 | 1,156 |
| Stone, clay, and glass.....do.... | 640 | 594 | 744 | 730 | r738 | 675 |
| Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do.... | 12,949 | 12,603 | 13,917 | 14,094 | r14,153 | 13,552 |
| Food and beverage.....do.... | 4,234 | 4,068 | 4,392 | 4,419 | 4,352 | 4,100 |
| Tobacco.....do.... | 285 | 315 | 360 | 338 | r320 | 344 |
| Textile.....do.... | 1,131 | 1,122 | 1,187 | 1,244 | r1,246 | 1,268 |
| Paper.....do.... | 764 | 733 | 883 | 879 | r921 | 896 |
| Chemical.....do.... | 1,707 | 1,677 | 1,984 | 2,058 | r2,040 | 1,927 |
| Petroleum and coal.....do.... | 2,140 | 2,218 | 2,382 | 2,346 | r2,362 | 2,416 |
| Rubber.....do.... | 374 | 372 | 470 | 451 | 462 | ..... |
| Value (adjusted), total.....do.... | 22,489 | 23,964 | 27,229 | 27,224 | r26,659 | 27,429 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do.... | 10,295 | 11,314 | 13,745 | 13,692 | r13,302 | 13,831 |
| Primary metal.....do.... | 1,596 | 1,703 | 2,285 | 2,394 | r2,324 | 2,417 |
| Fabricated metal.....do.... | 1,067 | 1,126 | 1,510 | 1,436 | r1,382 | 1,434 |
| Machinery (including electrical).....do.... | 2,976 | 3,084 | 3,484 | 3,474 | r3,472 | 3,524 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)..do.... | 2,159 | 2,865 | 3,413 | 3,438 | r3,293 | 3,621 |
| Lumber and furniture.....do.... | 952 | 997 | 1,280 | 1,236 | r1,131 | 1,168 |
| Stone, clay, and glass.....do.... | 582 | 577 | 682 | 670 | r665 | 662 |
| Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do.... | 12,194 | 12,650 | 13,484 | 13,532 | r13,357 | 13,598 |
| Food and beverage.....do.... | 3,975 | 4,031 | 4,291 | 4,249 | r4,104 | 4,062 |
| Tobacco.....do.... | 291 | 315 | 330 | 319 | r327 | 337 |
| Textile.....do.... | 1,010 | 1,100 | 1,109 | 1,131 | r1,112 | 1,243 |
| Paper.....do.... | 728 | 733 | 874 | 870 | r877 | 896 |
| Chemical.....do.... | 1,619 | 1,761 | 2,001 | 2,010 | r1,939 | 2,021 |
| Petroleum and coal.....do.... | 2,119 | 2,240 | 2,382 | 2,346 | r2,339 | 2,440 |
| Rubber.....do.... | 346 | 404 | 456 | 456 | 428 | ..... |

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes data for "other industries" not shown.

| ITEM | 1954 | | 1955 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | October | November | August | September | October | November |
| GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued | | | | | | |
| Manufacturers' inventories, end of month: | | | | | | |
| Book value (unadjusted), total....mil. of dol.. | 42,891 | 43,037 | 43,945 | 44,266 | r44,867 | 45,257 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do.... | 23,676 | 23,694 | 24,618 | 24,901 | r25,273 | 25,575 |
| Primary metal....do.... | 3,196 | 3,246 | 3,281 | 3,379 | r3,512 | 3,594 |
| Fabricated metal....do.... | 2,422 | 2,393 | 2,594 | 2,674 | r2,617 | 2,629 |
| Machinery (including electrical)....do.... | 7,861 | 7,852 | 7,983 | 7,996 | r8,093 | 8,245 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles).do.... | 5,702 | 5,699 | 5,953 | 6,066 | r6,242 | 6,289 |
| Lumber and furniture....do.... | 1,587 | 1,617 | 1,759 | 1,777 | r1,806 | 1,800 |
| Stone, clay, and glass....do.... | 813 | 817 | 896 | 887 | r900 | 911 |
| By stages of fabrication: | | | | | | |
| Purchased materials....bil. of dol.. | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 7.1 |
| Goods in process....do.... | 9.6 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| Finished goods....do.... | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.8 | 7.7 | r7.8 | 7.9 |
| Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/....mil. of dol.. | 19,215 | 19,343 | 19,327 | 19,365 | r19,594 | 19,682 |
| Food and beverage....do.... | 4,588 | 4,735 | 4,348 | 4,475 | r4,656 | 4,714 |
| Tobacco....do.... | 1,872 | 1,880 | 1,719 | 1,728 | r1,777 | 1,800 |
| Textile....do.... | 2,299 | 2,292 | 2,410 | 2,373 | r2,349 | 2,350 |
| Paper....do.... | 988 | 1,001 | 1,046 | 1,016 | r1,028 | 1,025 |
| Chemical....do.... | 2,928 | 2,969 | 3,047 | 3,063 | r3,101 | 3,145 |
| Petroleum and coal....do.... | 2,826 | 2,786 | 2,783 | 2,815 | r2,880 | 2,857 |
| Rubber....do.... | 785 | 795 | 811 | 830 | 860 | ..... |
| By stages of fabrication: | | | | | | |
| Purchased materials....bil. of dol.. | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 8.0 | 8.2 |
| Goods in process....do.... | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | r3.0 | 3.0 |
| Finished goods....do.... | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.5 |
| Book value (adjusted), total....mil. of dol.. | 43,168 | 43,270 | 44,315 | 44,703 | r45,265 | 45,551 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do.... | 23,916 | 23,959 | 24,768 | 25,182 | r25,555 | 25,900 |
| Primary metal....do.... | 3,095 | 3,127 | 3,259 | 3,305 | r3,426 | 3,485 |
| Fabricated metal....do.... | 2,523 | 2,493 | 2,620 | 2,757 | r2,726 | 2,739 |
| Machinery (including electrical)....do.... | 7,973 | 7,978 | 8,069 | 8,110 | r8,240 | 8,410 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles).do.... | 5,728 | 5,772 | 5,990 | 6,136 | r6,227 | 6,320 |
| Lumber and furniture....do.... | 1,603 | 1,617 | 1,742 | 1,795 | r1,843 | 1,837 |
| Stone, clay, and glass....do.... | 856 | 860 | 914 | 914 | r947 | 959 |
| By stages of fabrication: | | | | | | |
| Purchased materials....bil. of dol.. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 6.9 | r6.9 | 7.0 |
| Goods in process....do.... | 9.6 | 9.7 | 10.1 | 10.2 | 10.4 | 10.7 |
| Finished goods....do.... | 7.8 | 7.8 | 8.0 | r8.0 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/....mil. of dol.. | 19,252 | 19,311 | 19,547 | 19,521 | r19,710 | 19,651 |
| Food and beverage....do.... | 4,415 | 4,529 | 4,374 | 4,392 | r4,497 | 4,503 |
| Tobacco....do.... | 1,853 | 1,861 | 1,829 | 1,763 | r1,759 | 1,782 |
| Textile....do.... | 2,322 | 2,339 | 2,434 | 2,397 | r2,397 | 2,398 |
| Paper....do.... | 1,008 | 1,011 | 1,078 | 1,026 | r1,049 | 1,035 |
| Chemical....do.... | 3,006 | 3,006 | 3,112 | 3,188 | r3,190 | 3,160 |
| Petroleum and coal....do.... | 2,744 | 2,731 | 2,755 | 2,787 | r2,824 | 2,801 |
| Rubber....do.... | 835 | 811 | 863 | 874 | 915 | ..... |
| By stages of fabrication: | | | | | | |
| Purchased materials....bil. of dol.. | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.1 |
| Goods in process....do.... | 2.7 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Finished goods....do.... | 8.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.5 |
| Manufacturers' orders: | | | | | | |
| New orders, net (unadj.), total....mil. of dol.. | 23,574 | 22,635 | 28,443 | 28,744 | r28,230 | 27,613 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do.... | 10,769 | 9,919 | 14,580 | 14,766 | r14,099 | 13,969 |
| Primary metal....do.... | 1,712 | 1,846 | 2,559 | 2,406 | r2,302 | 2,553 |
| Fabricated metal....do.... | 1,101 | 1,140 | 1,686 | 1,617 | r1,540 | 1,480 |
| Machinery (including electrical)....do.... | 2,881 | 2,702 | 3,698 | 4,029 | r3,882 | 3,698 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do.... | 2,626 | 1,824 | 3,191 | 3,733 | r3,472 | 3,624 |
| Nondurable-goods industries....do.... | 12,805 | 12,716 | 13,863 | 13,978 | r14,131 | 13,644 |
| New orders, net (adjusted), total....do.... | 22,870 | 23,142 | 28,718 | 28,301 | r27,485 | 28,203 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do.... | 10,790 | 10,491 | 15,145 | 14,936 | r14,132 | 14,631 |
| Primary metal....do.... | 1,678 | 1,943 | 2,611 | 2,532 | r2,373 | 2,687 |
| Fabricated metal....do.... | 1,101 | 1,267 | 1,606 | 1,525 | r1,540 | 1,644 |
| Machinery (including electrical)....do.... | 2,915 | 2,950 | 3,833 | 4,165 | r3,929 | 4,024 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do.... | 2,764 | 1,824 | 3,844 | 3,733 | r3,472 | 3,553 |
| Nondurable-goods industries, total....do.... | 12,080 | 12,651 | 13,573 | 13,365 | r13,353 | 13,572 |
| Unfilled orders, end of month (unadj.), total....do.... | 47,440 | 46,384 | 51,809 | 52,957 | r53,340 | 53,684 |
| Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do.... | 44,908 | 43,739 | 48,385 | 49,649 | r50,054 | 50,306 |
| Primary metal....do.... | 3,239 | 3,402 | 6,633 | 6,686 | r6,619 | 6,758 |
| Fabricated metal....do.... | 3,031 | 3,068 | 3,861 | 3,942 | r3,934 | 3,994 |
| Machinery (including electrical)....do.... | 13,912 | 13,621 | 14,705 | 15,199 | r15,504 | 15,761 |
| Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)...do.... | 20,449 | 19,545 | 18,360 | 19,137 | r19,484 | 19,542 |
| Nondurable-goods industries, total....do.... | 2,532 | 2,645 | 3,424 | 3,308 | r3,286 | 3,378 |
| Industrial and commercial failures: | | | | | | |
| Failures, total....number.. | 871 | 933 | 888 | 822 | 919 | 945 |
| Commercial service....do.... | 68 | 68 | 59 | 75 | 81 | 70 |
| Construction....do.... | 109 | 110 | 134 | 114 | 136 | 133 |
| Manufacturing and mining....do.... | 189 | 179 | 158 | 168 | 180 | 196 |
| Retail trade....do.... | 414 | 490 | 430 | 366 | 437 | 462 |
| Wholesale trade....do.... | 91 | 86 | 107 | 99 | 85 | 84 |
| Liabilities (current), total....thous. of dol.. | 29,000 | 35,067 | 36,028 | 33,120 | 34,777 | 42,763 |
| Commercial service....do.... | 1,952 | 4,065 | 1,987 | 2,666 | 3,655 | 1,239 |
| Construction....do.... | 4,733 | 6,859 | 9,663 | 4,256 | 8,713 | 9,784 |
| Manufacturing and mining....do.... | 7,547 | 8,099 | 10,102 | 10,798 | 10,407 | 14,106 |
| Retail trade....do.... | 11,845 | 10,466 | 10,024 | 8,253 | 9,586 | 12,626 |
| Wholesale trade....do.... | 2,923 | 5,578 | 4,252 | 7,147 | 2,416 | 5,068 |

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes data for "other industries" not shown.

| ITEM | 1954 | | 1955 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | October | November | August | September | October | November |
| **DOMESTIC TRADE** | | | | | | |
| Television advertising: | | | | | | |
| Cost of facilities, total.....thous. of dol.. | 31,671 | 32,075 | 30,345 | r33,045 | 38,209 | ..... |
| Automotive, including accessories.....do.... | 2,837 | 3,432 | 3,358 | 3,620 | 4,936 | ..... |
| Drugs and toiletries.....do.... | 7,202 | 6,721 | 8,661 | r8,043 | 9,453 | ..... |
| Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do.... | 6,571 | 6,735 | 5,947 | r6,922 | 7,869 | ..... |
| Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do.... | 3,055 | 3,145 | 3,849 | 4,134 | 4,326 | ..... |
| Smoking materials.....do.... | 3,728 | 3,734 | 3,203 | 3,499 | 3,652 | ..... |
| Magazine advertising: | | | | | | |
| Cost, total.....do.... | 63,048 | 63,511 | 40,836 | 58,673 | 71,084 | ..... |
| Apparel and accessories.....do.... | 5,712 | 4,728 | 4,197 | 7,515 | 6,193 | ..... |
| Automotive, including accessories.....do.... | 3,262 | 5,878 | 3,762 | 3,661 | 5,926 | ..... |
| Building materials.....do.... | 3,236 | 2,184 | 1,699 | 3,848 | 3,610 | ..... |
| Drugs and toiletries.....do.... | 6,195 | 5,795 | 3,744 | 4,845 | 6,241 | ..... |
| Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do.... | 8,885 | 8,477 | 6,139 | 7,347 | 9,223 | ..... |
| Beer, wine, liquors.....do.... | 3,158 | 4,135 | 1,888 | 2,354 | 3,555 | ..... |
| Household equipment and supplies.....do.... | 4,450 | 4,439 | 1,670 | 3,674 | 4,901 | ..... |
| Household furnishings.....do.... | 3,690 | 2,948 | 1,496 | 2,493 | 4,309 | ..... |
| Industrial materials.....do.... | 4,769 | 4,229 | 3,451 | 4,469 | 5,680 | ..... |
| Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do.... | 810 | 760 | 540 | 836 | 946 | ..... |
| Smoking materials.....do.... | 1,377 | 1,549 | 1,369 | 1,524 | 1,548 | ..... |
| **EMPLOYMENT** | | | | | | |
| Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments: | | | | | | |
| Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees.. | 3.6 | 3.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 | r4.1 | p3.3 |
| Separation rate, total.....do.... | 3.3 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 4.4 | r3.5 | p3.0 |
| Discharge.....do.... | .2 | .2 | .3 | .3 | .3 | p.3 |
| Lay-off.....do.... | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.1 | r1.2 | p1.1 |
| Quit.....do.... | 1.2 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 1.8 | p1.5 |
| Military and miscellaneous.....do.... | .2 | .1 | .2 | .2 | .2 | p.2 |
| **METALS AND MANUFACTURES** | | | | | | |
| Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons.. | 4,984 | 5,257 | 6,601 | 6,703 | 6,965 | 6,699 |
| Castings, steel: | | | | | | |
| Shipments, total.....short tons.. | 87,085 | 87,659 | 126,406 | 140,843 | 145,674 | ..... |
| For sale, total.....do.... | 64,004 | 64,812 | 96,290 | 107,622 | 110,409 | ..... |
| Railway specialties.....do.... | 8,580 | 7,742 | 20,576 | 23,594 | 23,745 | ..... |
| Slab zinc: | | | | | | |
| Production (primary smelter), from domestic and foreign ores.....short tons.. | 61,124 | 74,432 | 78,836 | 77,087 | 82,108 | ..... |
| Secondary (redistilled) production, total.....do.... | 5,923 | 5,684 | 6,038 | 6,361 | 7,341 | ..... |
| Consumption, fabricators', total.....do.... | 79,545 | 82,461 | 87,687 | 91,849 | 97,940 | ..... |
| Stocks, end of month: | | | | | | |
| Producers', smelter (AZI).....do.... | 152,137 | 134,636 | 46,084 | 42,167 | 43,868 | ..... |
| Consumers'.....do.... | 93,362 | 96,076 | 120,943 | r120,262 | 115,733 | ..... |
| Furnaces, industrial, new orders, net: | | | | | | |
| Electric processing.....thous. of dol.. | 2,403 | 1,190 | 1,348 | 964 | 1,532 | 1,543 |
| Fuel-fired (except for hot rolling steel).....do.... | 1,936 | 1,534 | 4,101 | 6,579 | 7,061 | 4,131 |
| Machine tools (metal-cutting types): | | | | | | |
| New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100.. | 148.9 | 119.5 | 221.3 | 207.3 | r347.1 | p432.7 |
| Shipments.....do.... | 191.0 | 179.5 | 164.6 | 195.4 | r204.2 | p214.6 |
| Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....thousands.. | 263.2 | 237.9 | 255.5 | 308.3 | 350.7 | 307.5 |
| Washers, domestic, sales billed.....do.... | 339.2 | 308.4 | 403.8 | 414.9 | 362.3 | 361.3 |

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

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